

Nanette Wehe
California
Re: Social Security at 75 Years

July 14, 2010

Dear Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I am a resident of California and a teacher. Prior to deciding to enter the teaching field I was in the business world and paid into the Social Security program.

Because I am currently working as a teacher, even though I paid into Social Security, I would receive essentially no benefit once I retire or, God forbid, my husband should pre-decease me. I did not go into education to make a lot of money. However, I also did not expect to have to give up a secure retirement in order to help educate the future leaders and innovators of this great nation. Public employees like educators, police officers, and firefighters should not suffer a penalty for dedicating their lives to public services. The GPO and WEP are already discouraging talented people from entering public service occupations.

Both the House and the Senate held hearings in the 110th Congress, but the bill has not moved out of the committee. Retired educators, those still in the profession, and those seeking to enter the profession cannot wait any longer for action. I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. In addition, if Congress takes up overall social security reform, I urge inclusion of repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package.

I applaud the milestone anniversary of this important and lifesaving program. Please take action to return it to being a program for ALL who pay into it, not just some. I urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484), which would repeal the unfair Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

Thank you for your committed action on my behalf.

Sincerely,

Nanette Wehe